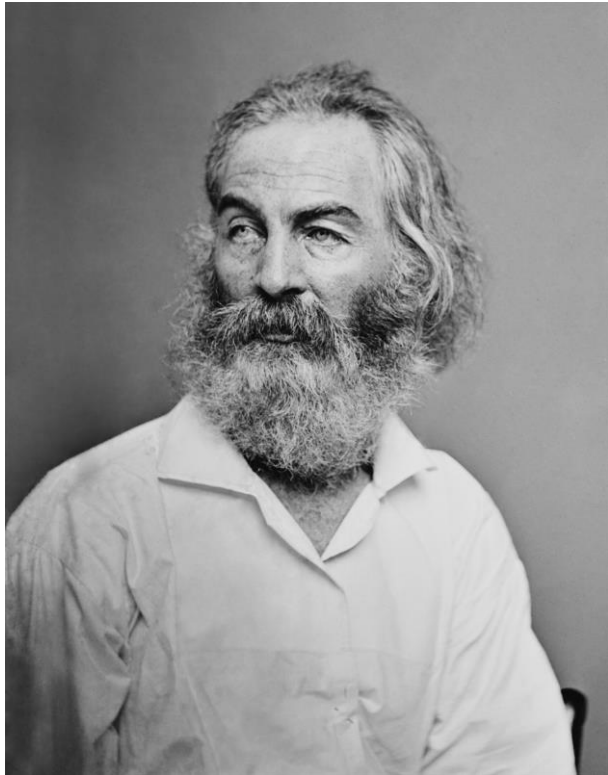




# FULL SERVICE COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

MELISSA ELLIOTT LCSW CGP AND DENISE HAJJAR MS ADDP





There was a child went forth  
everyday, and all that he looked  
upon became a part of him.

- Walt Whitman

## HOW DO CHILDREN RESPOND TO TRAUMA

- The child's age and developmental stage
- The child's perception of the anger faced
- Was the child a victim or a witness
- The child's relationship with the victim or perpetrator
- The child's past history with traumatic events
- The adversities the child faces in the aftermath of the trauma
- The support network of adults parents, clinicians, teachers and school administration.

# Trauma in Young Children ages 1-5

## Developmental Tasks

- Development of visual and auditory perception
- Recognition of response and emotional cues
- Attachment to primary caregiver

## Trauma's Impact

- Sensitivity to noise
- Avoidance of contact
- Heighten startle response
- Confusion about what is dangerous and who they can trust to protect them
- Fear of separation from familiar people and places difficulty with managing transitions.

## Children Ages 6-12 years of age:

### Development Tasks

- Manage fears, anxieties and aggression
- Sustain attention for learning and problem solving
- Control impulses and manage physical responses to danger

### Trauma Impact

- Emotional swings
- Learning issues
- Specific anxiety and fears
- Attention seeking
- Regression to younger behaviors

## Adolescents age 13-17 years old:

### Developmental Tasks

- Think abstractly
- Anticipate and consider the consequences of behavior
- Accurately judge danger and safety
- Modify and control behavior

### Trauma Impact

- Difficulty imagining or planning for the future
- Over or underestimating danger
- Inappropriate aggression
- Self-Destructive Behaviors and or Reckless Behavior

# Multidisciplinary Team-based Approaches

- Referral and treatment process for Full Service Community Schools
  - The child is identified and referred through clinic team, school personnel and families
  - The Behavioral completes a clinic enrollment and assessment from parent or caretaker and or referral source.
  - The student then participates in an evaluation by the clinician on the Behavioral team.
  - A treatment plan is developed.
  - School based therapies identified. These may include:
    - Family therapy
    - Individual therapy
    - Group therapy-psychoeducation and process and bereavement groups.
  - Group therapy Outside referral(s) are identified if necessary. These may include:
    - St Joseph's hospital for Psychological-Neurological assessment
    - DCC&P
    - in-home supports,